

April 10, 1978

LB 658

determination that we are going to diminish the qualifications of a nursing service is not in the best interest of the State of Nebraska. I would oppose Senator Lamb's proposal to divide the question and vote on them separately. Senator Lewis' amendment that he has offered to this amendment is proper, I think it is a good compromise and should be agreeable to all who indeed call themselves nurses. Who indeed care that the patients that they provide their skills and love to would be assured that they are indeed capable of providing the best care.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Chair recognizes Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, I have a question of Senator Lewis.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Senator Richard Lewis, will you respond?

SENATOR HEFNER: If a nurse has been off duty for five years how could she, he or she, go ahead and practice and get these two hundred hours?

SENATOR R. LEWIS: Senator Hefner, 200 hours in a five year period is less than one hour a week. This would even qualify those home health nurses, the blood mobile nurses, any nurse who is practicing at all, it seems would be possible for them to qualify themselves with this minimum of a requirement.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, then in other words, you are saying that she is going to have to work a few hours every year, is that right?

SENATOR R. LEWIS: She would have a total or a composite of 200 hours in five years. She might get that in a six months period.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, say that he or she chose not to do this, how would they gain re-entry into the nursing profession then? With this law.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: Senator Hefner, if the did not chose to comply with either of these prerequisites and then they would have to take a state board again to get...to be re-issued a license. I know of no other alternative. Unless it was waived by the State Board.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, you said either, but I think the way your amendment reads you have to do both.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: That is right. Yes.

SENATOR HEFNER: I would oppose the 200 hours because I feel especially that in rural Nebraska that we do have a problem here if we have to strict a re-entry system the first thing you know we will be short of nurses. We will not only be short of nurses in hospitals but we will be short of nurses in doctor's offices, we will be short of volunteer nurses that assist in blood mobiles in high blood pressure clinics and the like. In World War II we had a problem. So what we did is we recruited the nurses that had been nurses and gave them a short refresher course and then put them back into the nursing business again. I would like to see this bill go forward.

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